(c) whether India would play a role in the determination of property rights on the Moon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) In recent past, the different countries namely Japan, China, India, and USA had planned their own lunar missions independently. The USA's combined lunar mission, comprising of Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) and Lunar CRater and Observation Sensing Satellite - LCROSS- was originally planned to orbit as well as impact/crash on the lunar surface. The analysis of the data collected from this mission has also confirmed the presence of water on the moon.

(b) Based on the analysis of the results of the Chandrayaan-I and LCROSS, at this point of time, it would not be possible to consider the moon to be habitable.

(c) With the current global understanding and as per the UN Treaties on Outer Space Activities, the outer space, moon and other celestial bodies are common to the entire humankind for exploration. Accordingly, at this point of time, the determination of the property rights on the moon does not arise.

Separate visa for J&K people

†*209. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the practice of issuing visa on a separate sheet to Kashmiris, treating Kashmir as a separate country, by China has been continuing for the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time when this fact came to the notice of Government and steps taken by the Government to counter it; and

(c) the reasons for the failure of his Ministry and Immigration officials in stopping thousands of Kashmiris from going to China and whether it is not indicative of gross negligence on the part of the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) Government is aware that since 2008 China is issuing visas on a separate paper that is stapled to the passports of Indian nationals from the State of Jammu & Kashmir. Government has taken necessary action, including issuing an advisory stating that such visas are not considered valid for travel out of the country. Government's position that there should be no discrimination against visa applicants of Indian nationality on grounds of domicile and ethnicity has also been clearly conveyed to the Chinese Government.

National Frequency Management Board

*210. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended for the establishment of a National Frequency Management Board to prepare a comprehensive spectrum policy for the future;

(b) if so, the action being proposed by Government on the recommendations of TRAI; and

(c) whether any time-frame has been set for constitution of the Board?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. TRAI in its recommendations on "Allocation of Pricing of Spectrum for 3G and Broadband Wireless Access Services" dated 27 September, 2006 recommended constitution of National Frequency Management Board (NFMB) in order to prepare a long-term vision and planning for spectrum availability including additional spectrum, its efficient usage, planning for future requirement and effective monitoring.

However, based on the recommendations of an Expert Committee constituted in this Ministry on 18 September, 2006, the Telecom Commission had already approved the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Radio Spectrum Engineering and Management (CERSEM) for formulation of spectrum management policy, evolving national spectrum plan keeping in view the future technologies and spectrum requirement of stakeholders and formulation of recommendations on efficient utilization of spectrum.

Passport offices in Maharashtra

†*211. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposals to open new passport offices/passport service centres in Maharashtra and other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof with names of the places identified for this purpose; and

(c) the criteria for identifying places to set up new passport offices/passport service centres in the country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of P.S.K. is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) The Government had entrusted the National Institute of Smart Government (NISG), Hyderabad with the task of undertaking a time-bound study on the passport issuance system, including its IT aspects with the objective to deliver passport related services to the citizens in a timely, transparent, more accessible, reliable manner and in a comfortable environment, through streamlined procedures and committed, trained and motivated workforce. The Government accepted the NISG report and the Cabinet approval for the Passport Seva Project was obtained in September, 2007. The NISG also recommended the location of the Passport Seva Kendras on the basis of a study conducted by them on the number of passport applications received from various districts under each Passport Office.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi